

WHEAT AND WHEAT CONVENTION
HEED AND SHALL WE HAVE A
SHORT OR LONG CAMPAIGN?

We regret to see a disposition on the part of a portion of the Democratic press of the State, to have a short campaign this year, and looking to that end to postpone the calling of a State Convention until the last of the summer. Sharp, short, and decisive seems to be the idea of our friends who take this position. With all respect however for the judgment of our friends we think the policy of a short campaign, paid, promises no good for the Democratic party. Our cause has nothing to lose and everything to gain from the fullest, fairest and most protracted discussion. The longer the campaign shall be, the more sure will we be of victory, and the greater will be our majority. The people of North Carolina are not a people to be roused up to put forth their full strength in a twenty or a thirty days canvass, even under the most favorable circumstances. Certainly is this true when we are laboring under such a woful want of mail facilities and while we have only the present number of newspapers in the State. Nor is the party in such a state of organization and discipline as to make any short campaign into which it may enter certainly sharp and decisive. The experience of last year ought to be sufficient to demonstrate that the Democratic party cannot count upon its full strength being brought out in a short campaign. If the Convention, canvass last year had lasted three weeks longer the result would doubtless have been far different.

The last census returns show that there were in North Carolina about 218,000 voters, of whom 140,000 were white and 78,000 were black. The largest Radical vote ever polled in the State was for Caldwell in 1872. He received about 98,000 votes, or about 20,000 votes in excess of the negro vote. In 1874, the Radical vote was the outside limit of the white vote. In the Radical party in the State as it counts as a lawful white vote every fraudulent vote cast in its favor whether by white or black. Even, therefore, if the Radicals do as well as in 1876 as they did in 1872, and get 98,000 votes, there is still left 20,000 votes for us; that is to say, a majority of 22,000. Another consideration is, that no matter what the result may be, the entire Radical vote will be carried. The trouble is, that they carry in every election, whether the campaign be short or long, not only the votes they have, but those they do not have; that is to say, fraudulent votes. The peculiar composition of the party, and its perfect state of discipline renders this possible. Another thing. The line between the races is substantially the dividing line between the two parties in this State. In this we have the advantage over the Radicals. They cannot hope to draw any recruits from our ranks, while we can and do expect, by a thorough canvass, to gather in to our fold many of the misguided white men who have hitherto through ignorance and misapprehension voted the Radical ticket. The outside limit of the Radical party then is 98,000 votes, while our limit, but not our outside limit, is 120,000 votes. Our majority, not only that but our success depends upon the way in which we work upon this margin. If we work hard enough and long enough we can and we will win; if we do not we shall lose.

When these things are remembered it will be seen, it seems to us, with all deference for the opinions of those of our friends who differ from us, that every consideration of the sound policy dictates that the campaign should be so thorough and exhaustive as to reach every community in the State. And this necessitates a long active arduous campaign. We must begin early and work late. If we select good candidates they can not put in the field too soon. If we have honest differences to heal in our own ranks or if there are any refractory spirits who are not in the spirit of the party, we require to be brought to a proper sense of their allegiance to the party, the delicate, and it may be the difficult task, cannot be begun too soon.

And all these considerations point to an early day as proper for the calling of our State Convention. We beg that the Executive Committee at its meeting next week at Raleigh will carefully consider these things.

IS GRANT CRAZY OR IS HE ONLY CORRUPT?

The eager precipitate haste with which the President has accepted Belknap's resignation is, under the circumstances, explicable only on one of two grounds that is to say corruption or insanity. Mr. Bristow had notified him that the whole atmosphere of Washington was filled with rumors that a high official near the President's own person had been discovered to be guilty of most criminal conduct, that the rumors were also in definite shape and form in the columns of the Baltimore *Graphic*, then being circulated in Washington. Not satisfied with this, however, Mr. Bristow advised him as a means of further and fuller information to send for Mr. Bass, a Republican Congressman from New York and a member of the Committee then known of all the world, to be engaged in the task of investigating the affairs of the War Department. This was before 10 o'clock. About 10 o'clock Mr. Belknap called and made confession in person to the President himself and thereupon presented his resignation, which, at 20 minutes past 10 o'clock, was accepted in the following words written by the President's own hand.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, March 2, 1876.
Dear Sir: Your tender resignation as Secretary of War with the request to have it accepted immediately is received, and the same is hereby accepted with great regret.

Yours, etc.
U. S. GRANT.

Wherever these facts are known it will be idle for the President or for his friends, if he now has any, to convince the public that he accepted Mr. Belknap's resignation in ignorance of the fact that charges of the very gravest character were being every-

where made against him. The law says that sane men intend the natural and probable consequences of their acts and holds them responsible, criminally, for those consequences. Tried by this test, the test applied to almost every man in public position, what position is President Grant in? Was it not the natural and probable consequence of the President's precipitate acceptance of Belknap's resignation that Belknap would be shielded from impeachment and trial before the Senate of the United States?

It is true the acceptance of his resignation would be regarded in the Federal Court, but what a vast difference there is between impeachment and trial before the Senate with a Democratic House of Representatives prosecuting and a trial before a Federal Court where both the Judge and the Marshal and the prosecuting officer would be creatures of the President! The President could not hope to control the managers of an impeachment elected by the House of Representatives. What influence he could exercise in a prosecution before a Federal Court the verdict of the jury in the late Babcock trial plainly shows. Unless therefore Grant be an insane man we are forced to the conclusion that in accepting Belknap's resignation so precipitately he sought to save his friend and Secretary from a prosecution he could not control to subject him to one he could control.

But is the man insane and has he always been thus precipitate in accepting resignations of officers who have been forced by the pressure of public sentiment to tender them? Far from it. No man was ever more persistent in his refusal to accept resignations under such circumstances and for the reason as given openly in the case of Secretary DeLoach, that no man ought to "resign under fire," and was not Mr. Belknap under the hottest fire of DeLoach's case. When DeLoach offered his resignation and the President refused to accept it because he was under fire, the House of Representatives was Radical and there was no danger to be apprehended from an investigating committee. When Mr. Belknap offered his resignation and it was accepted, although he was under a murderous fire, the House of Representatives was Democratic and one of its committee had in its possession full proof of Mr. Belknap's guilt. President Grant knew perfectly well what he was seeking to accomplish when he accepted that resignation "with great regret."

WILL THE CHIEF JUSTICE PARDON?

Not even newspapers, not even Washington correspondents of newspapers are infallible. A notable instance of this sad truth is to be found in the statement so generally made and so generally repeated, that Chief Justice Waite will preside at the trial of the impeachment of Belknap. The accomplished correspondent of the *Richmond Enquirer*, "L. Q. W.," goes so far even as to say that the associate judges will assist the Chief Justice on that occasion, an assertion that is also made in the editorial columns of the *Baltimore American*.

The fact is that the associate judges as such, never take part in an impeachment trial, and the Chief Justice does so only when the President of the United States is on trial. In all other cases the regular presiding officer of the Senate presides over its deliberations while sitting as a Court of Impeachment as well as when not so sitting. The reason why the Chief Justice is appointed to preside in the case of the impeachment of the President is, that the Chief Justice is the only officer of the Senate who is not on trial in the conviction of the President, being next in the line of promotion.

In 1864, when Judge Chase was on trial, the regular presiding officer of the Senate at that time, Vice President Burr, and not the Chief Justice of the United States, acted as presiding officer of the Court of Impeachment.

And so also in the same year Vice President Burr, and not Chief Justice Marshall, presided over the Senate sitting as a Court of Impeachment for the trial of Judge Pickens of New Hampshire.

And so, too, in our own State, under a clause in the State Constitution identical with that in the Federal Constitution, the regular presiding officer, Hon. E. J. Warren, Senator from Beaufort County, presided over the Senate of North Carolina while sitting as a Court of Impeachment for the trial of Judge E. W. Jones.

According to both law and custom it is plain that Senator Ferry, and not Chief Justice Waite, will preside at the trial of Belknap before the Senate, sitting as a Court of Impeachment.

SHUT YOUR MOUTH OR GO TO JAIL.

As soon as the President accepted Belknap's resignation he became vehement and frequent in the expression of his determination to prosecute to the bitter end all persons concerned in bringing so great disgrace on the country. He has been especially particular to repeat in substance, if not in form, his purpose to let no guilty man escape, but to prosecute and punish all concerned in this matter as well as principals; the bribers as well as the party bribed. It was under this policy that Babcock was acquitted.

Will it succeed in Belknap's case also? It looks so, for it is reported that Marsh, the witness who testified before the committee in regard to Belknap's sale of the Post Trade ship at Fort Sill, has fled to Canada. What if Mr. Belknap should escape conviction and punishment because Mr. Marsh had fled to Canada? The country at last begins to see plainly what the President meant when he said let no guilty man escape. He meant to say to accomplices, shut your mouths and go to jail. The President knows that in cases of this sort the testimony of accomplices is necessary to secure conviction. Is Grant crazy, or is he only corrupt?

But wasn't it mean in the British Lion, as soon as he had made Schenck tell all he knew about poker, to drive him out of the country.

THE SITUATION AT WASHINGTON
TODAY-A BIRD'S EYE VIEW.

Matters at Washington are not exactly in that healthy state that induces wholesome, refreshingly clear to the mass in power. Things are tumbling promiscuously and men are seeking to stand from under. As yet it is only the beginning of the end. When the storm shall have died away, when the pure air of Democracy shall have disinfected the Government so long fouled with Radicalism, men will look back with wonder that so huge a mass of what day or an hour may bring forth. Things are moving. Col. Fred Grant has been ordered to his regiment now on duty away in the Yellow Stone country. When there he will be safe from harm. Lonely Grant! Babcock has been dismissed from the White House in disgrace upon the charge of having surreptitiously taken and published a copy of Attorney General Pierpont's letter to the Western District Attorney, threatening accomplices for testifying against members of the whiskey ring. The letter was in the President's possession at the time. Unfortunate President! Poor Babcock, a vicious sufferer, his troubles have been increased by the strong demand, "Do you take the hindmost?" is now the cry, or rather a Democratic Congressional investigating committee will get him, and that is worse. And the President is in fresh trouble about that same Babcock trial. Miserable Grant! The *St. Louis Times* boldly charges that the President and the Attorney General and Babcock together arranged the plan of operations by which Babcock was dismissed. Unhappy Grant! The *Graphic* charges that the Attorney General, Attorney General Dyer at St. Louis all the points against Babcock and communicated them to the President, to Babcock and to his counsel, who remained in Washington all the while. Guilty Grant! More work for a Democratic House of Representatives of an enquiring turn of mind.

Indeed, as we learn from a telegram handed us just as we had written the above, the evidence of Attorney General Pierpont's guilt is already in the hands of the Judiciary Committee of the House and his impeachment may be expected at an early day. Alas Ulysses! Proof of Belknap's corruption has accumulated until it appears he sold everything in his department that would fetch a price. Wretched Grant! In the Post office Department under the administration of "Honest" Mr. Grant, the employer of Hester, it appears that 1000 mail contracts for the next four years have been awarded or "straw," that it is to say fraudulent bids. Unfortunate Grant! And Minister Schenck is on his way home in disgrace, at the demand of the English Government, thus demonstrating that in one instance, at least, the British Lion could accomplish with a state's aid, what the American Eagle utterly failed to do after years of scheming. Poor Grant! And the Delano with the President's certificate of high character in his pocket is summoned before a Democratic investigating committee and must tell all he knows about stealing in the Interior Department or committing perjury and then be caught and convicted at last. Luckless Grant! As for John D. Wells, old man Gilson Wells formerly Secretary of the Navy, a predecessor of Grant's main Republican ally who went to Washington upon an errand and has gotten rich there on a salary of ten thousand dollars a year, meanwhile supporting his family in handsome style—old man Wells, we say, the predecessor of this Robinson, is summoned before the committee to tell all he knows about the sale of the Navy, a predecessor of Grant's main Republican ally who went to Washington upon an errand and has gotten rich there on a salary of ten thousand dollars a year, meanwhile supporting his family in handsome style—old man Wells, we say, the predecessor of this Robinson, is summoned before the committee to tell all he knows about the sale of the Navy, a predecessor of Grant's main Republican ally who went to Washington upon an errand and has gotten rich there on a salary of ten thousand dollars a year, meanwhile supporting his family in handsome style—old man Wells, we say, the predecessor of this 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